Welfare Measures for Sportspersons Representing the Country in International Sports

3734. SHRI NAGMANI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the welfare of sportspersons representing our country in international sports;

(b) whether Government provide any assistance to these sportspersons for their employment/self-employment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of sportspersons benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) There are a number of schemes for the welfare of sportspersons representing the country in International sports events. The Scheme of "Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons" provides for pension to the medal winners of Olympics (@ Rs. 2000/- p.m.); gold medalists of World Cup/World Championship (@ Rs. 2000/- p.m.); gold medalists of Asian Games (@ Rs. 1500/- p.m.); and Silver and Bronze medalists of World Cup (@ Rs. 1500/- p.m.). Similarly, under the scheme of the "National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons", outstanding Sportspersons in indigent circumstances are given a pension upto Rs. 1500/- p.m. and in cases of their sustaining fatal injury during training for or participation in an international competition, a lumpsum assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 1.00 lakh is granted.

Cash Awards ranging from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 5.00 lakhs are also given to outstanding Sportspersons winning medals at International level sports event under the scheme of "Special Awards to Winners of International Sports Events and their Coaches".

(b) and (c) As per existing instructions, 5% of Vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in Ministries/Departments can be filled up by Sportspersons provided they fulfil other requirements in terms of age and educational qualifications. No financial assistance, however, is given for self-employment to any sportspersons. No record is maintained in the Department with regard to the employment of sportspersons.

Evaluation of Operation Blackboard in Gujarat

3735. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the working and success of Operation Blackboard (OB) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the evaluation; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to plug the loopholes in Operation Blackboard in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Implementation of Operation Blackboard (OB) in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu was evaluated by NCERT in 1991-92.

(b) The Study, *inter alia,* recommended filling of gaps in provision of adequate facilities in the form of school buildings, placement of two teachers in Primary schools, supply of essential teaching learning materials to primary schools and orientation of teachers in regard to the use of teaching learning materials.

(c) By and large, the progress of Operation Blackboard in Gujarat has been satisfactory. Nevertheless efforts for utilising available funds for teaching learning equipment need to be intensified.